

ment of the right upper extremity, in consequence of an injury of that elbow, which was followed by ulceration and discharge of portions of bone, with which she had been affected while in a state of great nervous debility, after hooping-cough.

#### WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Mr. GREGORY SMITH, President.

#### RESPIRATION IN AN EARLY FŒTUS.—JAUNDICE AND TUMBLING.

DR. GREY had examined the lungs of the fœtuses of about the fifth and a half month of gestation, which Mr. Streeter exhibited at the last meeting of the society with the object of deciding whether either of them had breathed, Mr. Streeter having observed respiratory movements in both of them. On examination, it was found that the lungs of the larger fœtus had not received air. The entire of this fœtus weighed 9106 grains; the proportion which the lungs bore to the whole being as 1 to 73. The lungs sunk in water. On inspecting the lungs of the lesser fœtus, which was not half the weight of the other, it was found that they had received air into them, a great number of respiratory points being observable, and tested to be such by being placed in the field of the microscope. These lungs on being placed in water also sunk; when the lobes were separated, they sunk also; but a portion of the middle lobe, when separated from the other part, floated. This fœtus weighed 4594 grains; the proportion the lungs bore to the entire body being 1 to 121. On examining these respiratory points minutely, it was found in opposition to Devergie, who had stated that they were four-celled and stellated; that in some of them there were not so many as four cells, and in others more than that number, and of very irregular shape. These points were easily distinguishable from the vesicles which were the result of putrefaction, but erroneously considered to be dependent on congenital emphysema, both by their appearance and situation. The points were clearly seen to be imperfectly developed air-cells, while the putrefactive vesicles were contained between the external cellular membrane of the lungs and the pleura covering it; and they also resembled injections of quicksilver. He had examined the membranes, and found that Mr. Streeter had been strictly correct in announcing, at the previous meeting, that there was only one chorion, while there were two amnia.

#### JAUNDICE.

Mr. ROBINS inquired if any member had seen cases of congenital jaundice. He had seen many children whose skin were quite yellow for several days after birth. He in-

quired whether this "jaundice" might be the result of the passage of the child from the womb, as he had come to this opinion from observing that tumblers were subject to jaundice.

A discussion of some length on jaundice, its causes, effect, and cure, followed; in the course of which, Dr. Johnson stated that he had, in some very bad cases of jaundice, administered inspissated ox-gall in doses of five grains, gradually increased to ten grains, three times a-day, with the best effect. He explained the action of the remedy, on the principle that the ox-bile was the best substitute that could be found for the human secretion.

#### ROYAL MEDICO-BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

December 18, 1840.

#### BRANDY AND SALT.

DR. FARRE made some remarks on the various kinds of aloes.

Mr. ILIFF stated, in reference to a question which had been put by a member as to the efficacy of brandy and salt, that a celebrated surgeon had informed him of a case to which he had been called, of a person who had been taking brandy and salt internally for suppression of urine, and had nearly lost his life in consequence; the symptoms of the disease having been so dreadfully aggravated that he was almost moribund, and was saved with difficulty. He, Mr. Iliff, supposed the mixture acted externally merely as a counter-irritant.

Dr. SIGMOND observed, that the remedy was by no means a new one, as Paracelsus recommends a mixture of common salt and alcohol, and as an external application.

#### NORTH OF ENGLAND MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE Council met on Wednesday last, (Dr. HEADLAM, President, in the chair,) when, after the transaction of other business had been concluded, the Medical-Profession Bill, proposed to be introduced into the House of Commons by BENJAMIN HAWES, Esq., M.P., was taken into consideration: and it was resolved *unanimously*:—

"That the Council have much pleasure in expressing their approbation of the *principles* which have been observed in the construction of this Bill.

"1. Because the Bill proposes to institute a registry of all persons, who are, at this time, or may hereafter become, legally qualified to practise the art of medicine in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.